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A

NARRATIVE

Of a Strange and Sudden

APPARITION

OF AN

ARCH-ANGEL

AT THE

OLD-BAYLY,

ON

Monday *March* the Seventh, 1680. *Engliſh* Stile,

BETWIXT

The Hours of Three and Five in the Afternoon, to the great Aſtoniſhment of the COURT and all that were preſent.

Dedicated to all the Miniſters and Church-Wardens of the Whole Nation.

By an Eye-witneſs of the Apparition.

ROM. ii. 22.
Thou that abhorreſt Idols, doſt thou commit Sacriledge?

Printed in the Year, $16\frac{80}{81}$.

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A NARRATIVE OF A

Strange and ſudden *Apparition* of an Arch-Angel at the *Old-Bayly*, on Monday *March* the 7th. 1680.

SINCE Monday the Seventh inſtant, when Mr. *Sherman* Senior Church-warden of *Alhallows Barkin* pleaded guilty at the *Old-Bayly*, to Mr. *Whitaker*'s Indictment (which Mr.* *Whitaker* had before indicted the *Lord Biſhop of London* for keeping his Courts in his own Name) many of the Pariſhioners of *Barkin*, and others have complained to Dr. *Hickes* the Miniſter of *Barkin*, of Mr. *Sherman*'s manner of proceeding upon that Indictment (in which the Doctor, Lecturer, and Church-wardens were equally indicted) as having gratified the enemies, and much offended, and ſcandalized the Friends of the Government, and the Church.

Upon theſe complaints the Doctor, laſt Lord's day after Evening Sermon, called a *Veſtry*, at which Nineteen of the Principal Perſons of the Pariſh all Veſtry-men did appear.

As ſoon as they were ſet, and had heard the ‖ Statute read, upon which the Indictment was grounded, the Doctor upon Mr. *Sherman*'s refuſal to be preſent at the Veſtry, made a report of his proceeding upon the whole matter, telling them that Mr. *Sherman* had acted therein not only without, but expreſly againſt his advice and conſent, he having told him the Night before he appeared at the *Old-Bayly*, that he conceived it was their duty to conſult the Veſtry about the manner of proceeding upon that Indictment, and that their defence (in his opinion) was neceſſary, and eaſie; *Neceſſary*, becauſe otherwiſe they ſhould render his Majeſty's Chappels-royal, the Cathedrals, and Collegiate-Churches and Chappels, and moſt of the Pariſh-churches of this City and Kingdom obnoxious to the laſh of every factious and diſaffected perſon, upon the account of the Church-ornaments: And *Eaſie*, becauſe the Figure, for ſuffering of which they were Indicted, had not the ſhape of the Statue of St. *Michael* the *Archangel*, nor was ever reputed the Image, or called by the Name of any Saint whatſoever, but as we could make it appear by the Teſtimony of Hundreds yet living in the Pariſh, had been made, and ſet up (*in the late times of uſurpation*) upon the Clock, or Hand-dyal, between *Time* on one hand, and *Death* on the other (whoſe Figures are yet to be ſeen) and that when the Clock was ſet over the Organ about Six years ago, it was ſet as an ornament over the *Ten Commandments*, where it ſtood unobſerved by himſelf, and many of his Pariſhoners till the firſt report of the Indictment, when Mr. *Sherman* was Foreman of the Grand-Jury, the Seſſions before Mr. *Whitaker* did really indict it: *He alſo added*, that he then told Mr. *Sherman*, that they had time enough to conſult the Veſtry, and take joynt-meaſures, being not obliged to anſwer to the Indictment till the Seſſions in *Eaſter-week*.

That notwithſtanding this advice, and entreaties uſed to Mr. *Sherman* not to appear at the private Seſſions occaſionally held the next day, that he privily took down the Figure commonly called the Angel (becauſe it had a Trumpet at his mouth, and had written on a label hanging upon his Breaſt, ARISE YE DEAD, AND COME TO JUDGMENT) conveighed it to the *Old-Bayly*, and there pleaded guilty to the Indictment, and after the Court

* And who is reported to be the man, who was imprison'd firſt by the Mayor of *Worceſter*, and then by an Order from the Houſe of Lords, for ſaying *all the Biſhops were Papiſts except Four.*

‖ *Ann.* 3. and 4. *Edw. VI.* c. 10.

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was risen would have given away the Figure, but that he was forbidden by the worthy Mr. *Hunter* the other Church-warden, who made it be brought back to the Church, from whence on *Wednesday* Morning last, the said Mr. *Sherman*, without the knowledge of the Doctor, or Mr. *Hunter*, privily took it away by a Porter, pretending that Mr. Sheriff *Bethel* had demanded it by virtue of an Order made by the Court for demolishing of it, although the Court upon his pleading Guilty on the one hand, and Mr. Sheriffs urging the destruction of it on the other, could not be prevailed with to make any such Order, thinking the Indictment frivolous and groundless.

After the Doctor had related these, and many other particulars, the Vestry gave him their thanks for his care in this business, and for endeavouring to preserve the Peace, and good order of the Parish, and forthwith resolved (nemine contradicente) *that it was their opinion that Mr.* Sherman *upon the whole matter had acted arbitrarily and irregularly, and that he ought to have consulted the* Vestry, *and taken their directions how to proceed upon the Indictment.*

They also (as we are informed) declared that this Order was not intended to preclude them from proceeding further against the said Mr. *Sherman*, as hereafter should be thought fit: And upon this occasion exhorted one another to be very careful, and unanimous in the next Election of their *Vestry-men* in choosing such as were Loyal and good Church-men into the vacant places, whereupon some Knights, and many other Gentlemen of undoubted Loyalty, and adherence to the established Protestant Religion, were mentioned as fit for that trust.

As the Ministers and Church-Wardens of *Barkin* have been Indicted for suffering the Image of S. *Michael* the Arch-Angel, in the Parish-Church, as the Learned Indicter first pleased to call the foresaid Figure: so if he can find colour for it in any old Statute, he may as justly Indict them again for suffering of *Pagan Idols*; for old Time may be presented for *Saturn*, and Death for *Mors*, who with his brother *Erebus* every School-Boy can inform the Grand ------ were famous Deities of old.

And if he please to do so, he may add by the merit of the action to the former reputation, which he hath got by presenting the *Angel*; which after it had escaped the Sentence of destruction, which was hoped for from the Court upon such a surprize, a Gentleman would have bought at the purchase of a Guiny to have set up in his own Parish-Church. I suppose that Gentleman feared not a second Indictment, being either a good Lawyer himself, or as having heard one of the best Lawyers of the Nation, I mean Mr. *Recorder*, reply to one of the Loyal Aldermen, who asked him by what Statute, that Figure produced in the Court, could be Indicted? *By none that he knew.* The same Honourable Alderman asked one, who pleaded hard against the harmless Statue, what that writing was upon his Breast? ARISE YE DEAD AND COME TO JUDGMENT, saith he: *Ay, that's it* (replied he) *which, I fear, offends you, you cannot endure to be reminded of the Last Judgment, the thoughts of it, perhaps, are troublesome unto you:* And when the same Gentleman still persisted to have it Sentenced to the Flames, some remote Voices were heard to say, Let him have it to burn in his Kitchin. I have only one observation to add, That in the beginning of the Late Times the Parish of *Barkin* was the first Parish, and Doctor *Layfeild* late Minister of it, the first Minister of *London*, who was troubled upon the account of some little Images in the work of the Cover of the Font, which the Factious people of that time reproachfully called, *The Gods of Barkin.* God Almighty, who equally hates Sacriledge, and Idolatry, and Schism, and Sedition as much as other sins, divert the *Omen*, and blast the designs of all those on either hand that seek the destruction of this *truly persecuted* Church. *Amen.*

Dated, *March* 15. 1680.

THE END.